

Adam Herold

## Victim Impact Statement

I am Adam Herold's mom, Raelene Herold.

Adam was 16 years old and the youngest player on the bus.

On April 6/2018, my life changed forever

I have 2 children, Adam and a daughter, Erin 3 years older who attends university.

We live on a family farm and make our living on that farm.

We are a very close family who spends most of our time together - either working on the farm, spending time at the lake or other holidays.

For the past several years Russell myself and Erin followed Adam's Hockey - that's just what the 3 of us did. Our schedules revolved around Adam's hockey schedule (practices & games). We seldom missed a game. We travelled across the province

and beyond each season.

Over the years, we have spent much time in hockey rinks and made numerous friends.

This hockey season - We ARE LOST

Attending Adam's hockey games are no longer our main social event of the winter.

Right now instead of following Adam with the Prince Albert Raiders on a B.C road trip - we are grieving parents, writing

Victim Impact Statements and attending court.

Adam was an amazing young man with so much to look forward to in the future. (Yes as his mother I might be a bit biased.)

Adam was a Kind young man who was everyone's friend.

Adam was a high level talented hockey player.

Adam was an honor roll student

Adam was a valuable worker on our farm

Adam was a leader

Adam was a loyal friend, grandson, cousin and brother.

Adam was the person in our family, who truly brought the best out in his mom DAD and sister.

Adam loved the outdoors and the farm. He went hunting and snowmobiling any chance he got and Adam spent many hours at the lake.

wakeboarding - Russell myself and Erin in the boat and Adam on the wake board behind.

This past June - on our first day out with the boat for the season - I was absolutely heart broken. Yes there was Russell driving



the boat, myself and Erin sitting in our usual spots looking behind as we always do - but NO Adam on that wakeboard - with his BIG SMILE.

That particular day in June 2018 was one of many for me that represents how my life has changed. There will Always be something missing. Adam is gone forever. Losing my child is NOT something I will get over. I am devastated.

The Loss of Adam has changed my husband and myself and our daughter. We are broken. We are the Herold's before and the Herold's after the tragic bus crash on April 6/2018.

Our future has completely changed  
Adam would be in Grade 12 this year. We  
will not be celebrating his high school  
graduation in June.

We will not be following Adam's hockey  
career - wherever that may have taken him.

Adam will not attend college or university

Adam will not take over the family farm

Adam will not get married or have children

As a parent, I feel we have been robbed  
of our future.

So to answer the question How has your life  
changed since April 6, 2018?

The answer is simple - everything has changed

Nothing is the same and nothing will ever be

the same. Once again the word I will use is  
Devastated

File # 2018-446743 (1)

Mr Singh;

I would like you to meet Adam Scott Herold, (show Adam's picture) who died in the accident April 6. Adam's name is a mix of his Grandfathers name (Adam) and my middle name (Scott).

April is the time of year when normally our family and myself look forward to. Two of the best days in my life occurred in April. My daughter Erin was born April 1 and my son Adam was born April 12. Yes you heard right, April 12. He died six days short of his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. His funeral was held the day after what would of been his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. Now April is a terrible month for us, as Adam's death will forever be the memory we have, when we should be celebrating.

16 years old with so much promise, and future, taken away in a flash of a hand. Adam was right from a youngster always someone who everybody would want as a friend. He was easy going and reliable, making friends wherever he went because of his



desire to always be a good person and  
treat everyone fairly.

From a very young age Adam would help around our farmyard with his mother and sister Taking care of the yardsite, cutting grass and working shelterbelts. He helped his mother plant our family garden, which was one of the things he really liked. Adam had a green thumb, something most people don't know.

Adam was a gifted athlete excelling at all sports he participated in. Hockey in particular was one of his passions, where he excelled. He played minor hockey in his home town of Montmartre, Sask, till he moved on to play AA hockey in Weyburn, Sask 100kms away. He then went on to play in Prairie Storm, Balgonie 85kms away where he had to be driven to 4-5 days a week. While playing Bantam AA in Prairie Storm Adam was awarded the Top Defenceman and first team All Star at the prestigious KIBHIT tournament, as well as league first team Allstar. He was chosen to represent Sask on the U16 prov. hockey team for the Western Canada Championships.



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Adam was also drafted that year in the second Round, 35<sup>th</sup> overall in the Western Hockey League Bantam Draft, by the Prince Albert Raiders. He then moved to Regina and was billeted as he played midget AAA with the Regina Pat Canadians. He won a provincial championship with the pats as well as playing in the National Championship, "the Telus Cup," Adam captained the Pat Canadians to their first championship in the prestigious MAC Midget Invitational last year. He was named a first team Sask midget AAA allstar and was awarded the Chuck Herriot Award. The award is given to the player who exemplifies leadership and involvement with his team and community as well as academic achievement. Adam was to be playing this season with the Prince Albert Raiders (the #1 team in all the Canadian Junior Hockey League.) Adam was working towards being drafted this Spring in the National Hockey League Draft. This was something he had worked very very ->

hard towards since he was 12. He had <sup>(4)</sup>  
chosen to spend countless hours traveling  
to practise and playing on teams far from  
his home. Moving away at 15 and living  
with a billet, going to countless skating  
and workout classes. All aimed at helping  
him achieve his goal of making the NHL,  
all gone now.

Adam was an Honour Roll student in  
both his home community and Leboldus high school  
in Regina. He was a 90+plus average student.  
He could have excelled at any profession he  
would of chosen. Adam loved the farm he  
grew upon. Nature and the rural life were  
very important to him. Adam took great pride  
in helping out on the farm. Taking a greater and  
greater role as he got older. He helped seed  
the crops, maintain the fences, spray the crops,  
had the grain and drive the combine and  
grain truck at harvest. Adam often spoke  
of taking over the Family Farm when his  
dream of a National Hockey League career  
was over.



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Adam would have been the fourth generation to live and work on our family farm. One can only dream now, where his drive and intellect would have taken the family farm. Now the farm which was going to expand is facing uncertainty. We search for answers as we as a family stress the decision to continue farming. We now have no one to take over the family farm, my daughter suffers from allergies and is unable to continue with farm life. If we want to continue farming we will have to hire help to replace the work he did now, and for the future.

Adam grew up on that family farm. If you know anything about rural life on a farm, you would know that your children are very connected in everything you do. From a young age our kids rode along with us, tending to cattle, seeding and harvesting the crops we grew. They helped in building most of the things on the farm and probably drove almost everything on the farm →



You live where you play and play<sup>(6)</sup>  
where you work on a farm. Now we  
have no ability to have a "safe place,"  
from always, always thinking of Adam. Where  
we live, where we work is full of memories  
of Adam being there with us and there is no  
escaping it. We have a lake cottage that  
is very dear to all of our family. Adam and  
his sister Erin loved to be at the lake  
and spent countless hours out together in the water.  
We all did, because everything we did, we always  
did as a family. Now that cottage which holds  
all those memories is also a painful reminder  
of happier days that are lost forever. Wherever  
our family went people would say, the "Herolds"  
are here. It didn't matter whether it was a work  
event or social event, what ever, it was the  
four of us, now we have a hole that can't be  
replaced.

You Sir have taken the only sibling my  
daughter had, from her. I worry as her parents  
grow old she will not have a family component  
for support when we are gone now that her only  
Siblings is gone. Adam and Erin were as close

as two siblings could be. They didn't need ①  
have friends over or bring a friend along  
on a trip or vacation, they were each others best  
friend. Adam had just bought his sister a gift  
for her birthday and on it, it read: Dream It,  
Live it, Love it. They both had dreams of  
a future, a job, a life, a family for each other.  
Adam was Erin's biggest fan and she was his.  
The accident happened just before her  
final exams at university and she had to  
postpone her exams and rewrite later.  
You have taken away her hero, her  
brother, her best friend forever!

You have effectively ended my  
family name as no one will carry on the  
"Herald" name just as you also have brought  
the end to our family farm. Both myself  
and my wife now suffer from depression.

My wife has a very close bond to  
her children. Always interested in what they  
were doing. She read to them daily when they  
were younger, she was actively involved →



in their school and schoolwork. She (8)  
was involved in any sport or activity they  
did. She nurtured them and supported them in  
every thing they did. Adam in many ways was  
his mother. He looked like me and had my  
drive and determination, but he always had  
his mothers compassion and friendly demeanor.  
His mother talked daily to both of her  
children even when they had moved awy from  
home. Always checking up on them, seeing how  
their day was, making sure they got home  
safe when traveling somewhere. Saying I love  
you each night. Now for her there is a gaping  
hole in her life. One of the loves of her  
life is gone. All the caring and nurturing and  
providing for Adam now meaningless. She sees  
a counselor and will so for the foreseeable  
future. She is a very religious person and  
you have destroyed the family she knew and  
have brought question marks into her  
faith. →



I myself suffer anxiety, sleep disorder and depression. I cry daily often more than once a day still now. Adam and I had a very, very close bond. We both shared many of the same passions of life. Our love of sports, Hockey in particular, the outdoors, hunting, and snowmobiling are some things I can't replace. I coached Adam for most of his hockey career and drove him to hundreds if not thousand of practices and games. Special father-son bonding time. Adam shared my love of the outdoors and cared about the loss of habitat in our area. As he got older we did many snowmobile and hunting trips together. These trips are now just memories, for me painful memories as we did a lot of this as Father-Son. We enjoyed and loved each other's company. Now I have a huge void in my ability to participate in and enjoy these activities which I grew up with and learnt from my father. I think about him and →

and all the potential in the world (10)  
he had and how that is now gone, all from  
someone else's careless actions. I struggle to be  
able to concentrate enough to run my farm and just  
take care of my family. The enormosity of the loss  
is overwhelming. We would always follow our kids  
activities, and following Adams hockey was a  
passion of mine and his mothers. We now have no  
hockey to follow, no school to check in on. We have a  
huge hole in our lifestyle and our activities in  
life. We struggle to interact with our friends and  
family who have children the same age as Adam, as we  
see what we no longer have. I see a counsler and  
have no idea when I will be able to go on without  
seeing one. He tells me that my stress, anxiety and  
depression will only get worse, not better as we deal  
with burying Adam. We have not buried him yet. When  
we recently returned home from a trip, I took his  
urn, sat it on my lap and cried as I showed him  
pictures from our trip. Commenting to him about places  
we had been together as a family. Do you  
have any idea what it is like to hold  
your 6'3" 200lb athletic son on your lap





like I did when he was a baby. Only now (11)  
he is in a can, Its DEVASTATING.

You took not only one of the loves  
of my life, you took away my grandchildren  
and crushed my dreams of passing on the  
family farm to my son one day. My days are  
now blank and empty as I hope yours will be.

Adam can't enjoy the world we live in, can't  
have a love, a family and can't enjoy the success  
in life he would of had. I hope you realize that.  
If it seems like I have repeated Adams  
name alot, I have I hope that now and  
forever and especially if you ever drive  
again, You remember Adam Herold and the  
names of the other 28 people on the bus that  
day. Their lives and that of their families  
are changed forever because of your actions.  
We will never know did we lose a great  
farmer, an NHL hockey player, a lawyer,  
a doctor, a future premier maybe the  
prime minister of our great country. but →



I know that I Lost a piece of (12)  
my soul, and my heart, my love, my son.

Rest in peace Adam